

TELECOMMUNICATIONS
ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

June 14, 2011

The Honorable Mike Nofs
Chairman, Senate Technology & Energy Committee
PO Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Chairman Nofs:

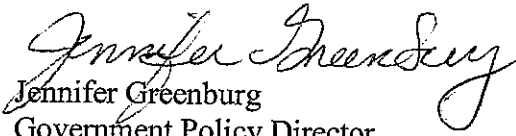
Thank you for reviewing the Uniform Video Services Local Franchise Act and its impact on Michigan's video services market. The experience of our member companies shows the law has been effective in reducing the costs of entry into the video services market as well as lowering the ongoing regulatory costs by establishing a single, statewide set of standards. We do not believe changes are needed in the law at this time.

It is important to remember that the law was passed by the legislature at a time when some local governments were imposing onerous costs and conditions of service on providers seeking local franchise agreements. The situation was escalating as more and more local governments were considering similar fees and conditions, which prompted the call for a uniform, statewide process by which providers could offer video services to customers. The enactment of 2006 PA 480 resolved the problems and has served as a stable, predictable platform on which providers can meet the needs of their customers.

Since the passage of PA 480, several members of the Telecommunications Association of Michigan have entered the video services market. Given that our membership focuses almost exclusively on rural communities, their entry often provides customers with services they weren't able to get from traditional cable TV companies or gives them a real competitive choice. As the broadband market continues to evolve, we fully expect more of our members to roll out video services to rural communities across the state.

In TAM's view, PA 480 has and continues to be a success for Michigan's video service market and, most importantly, for consumers.

Sincerely,


Jennifer Greenburg
Government Policy Director

cc: Committee members